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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,476	09/23/2003	Abraham Shahar	85189-498	4834

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WINSTON & STRAWN LLP  
1700 K STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

NAFF, DAVID M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1651

DATE MAILED: 03/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/669,476

Applicant(s)

SHAHAR ET AL.

Examiner

David M. Naff

Art Unit

1651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                       | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

***Election/Restrictions***

Claims in the application are 1-35.

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under  
35 U.S.C. 121:

- 5 I. Claims 1-9, 21 and 32-35, drawn to a biocompatible matrix comprising hyaluronic acid and laminin and a bioactive compound, and implant and medical device containing the matrix, classified in class 435, subclass 395.
- 10 II. Claims 10-20 and 22, drawn to a cell culture comprising a plurality of cells other than neuronal explant cultured on a matrix comprising hyaluronic acid and laminin cross-linked to form a combined gel, classified in class 435, subclass 174.
- 15 III. Claims 23-30, drawn to a method for preparing a biocompatible matrix to be implanted in a human, classified in class 424, subclass 423.
- 20 IV. Claim 31, drawn to a method of transplanting cells other than neuronal cells comprising transplanting an implant comprising cells in or on a biocompatible matrix comprising hyaluronic acid and laminin cross-linked to form a combined gel, classified in class 424, subclass 93.7.

The inventions are independent or distinct, each from the other because:

Inventions I-IV are each different such that each can be  
25 performed without performing any of the other inventions. The matrix

Art Unit: 1651

of invention I can be used *in vitro* to deliver a growth factor and grow cells without containing cells other than cells of a neuronal explant as required by invention II and without transplanting cells as required by invention IV, and can be prepared by a method other than  
5 required by invention III such as by combining dry hyaluronic acid and laminin and then forming a solution without separately forming hydrated hyaluronic acid and a laminin solution as required by invention III. The matrix of the cell culture of invention II does not have to contain a bioactive factor required in the matrix of  
10 invention I, does not have to be prepared as required by invention III for reasons set forth above in regard to invention I, and the cell culture of invention II can be used other than for transplanting cells as required by invention IV such as *in vitro* to grow cells. A matrix resulting from a method as required by invention III can be used other  
15 than for transplanting cells as required by the method of invention IV such as for growing cells *in vitro*, and the matrix required by the method of transplanting cells of invention of IV can be prepared other than required by the method of invention III as set forth above in regard to the matrix of invention I.

20 Examining inventions I-IV together will be a serious burden due to different searches and considerations in regard to applying prior art required due to differences in metes and bounds of the claims of the different inventions.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the  
25 reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art in

Art Unit: 1651

view of their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be  
5 examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically  
10 point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or  
15 species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

20 Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a

Art Unit: 1651

request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier  
5 communications from the examiner should be directed to David M. Naff  
whose telephone number is 571-272-0920. The examiner can normally be  
reached on Monday-Friday 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful,  
the examiner's supervisor, Mike Wityshyn can be reached on 571-272-  
10 0926. The fax phone number for the organization where this  
application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be  
obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR)  
system. Status information for published applications may be obtained  
15 from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for  
unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For  
more information about the PAIR system, see [http://pair-](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov)  
[direct.uspto.gov](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov). Should you have questions on access to the Private  
PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-  
20 9197 (toll-free).



David M. Naff  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1651